

**Approved March 8, 2011**

**Rockville Environment Commission  
Minutes of the Meeting of Tuesday, February 8, 2011  
At the Rockville City Hall, 111 Maryland Avenue**

**Attendance**

**Commissioners:** Steve Cardon, Julie Palakovich-Carr, Kris Dighe, Anne Goodman, Beri Kravitz, and Christine Davidson McCord

**Absent:** Seth Adams, Donna Vincent Roa and David Zbarsky

**Guests:** John Britton, City Councilmember

John Becker, Resident and Prospective Commissioner

Cynthia Kebba, Community Planning and Development Services

Mark Charles, City of Rockville Environmental Management

**Meeting Commencement**

The meeting convened at 7:33 pm by Chair Dighe

**Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of the January 18, 2011 meeting were reviewed and Kravitz moved and Davidson-McCord seconded approval with one minor typo change (corrected on the final posted minutes). The Commission approved the minutes 6-0-0.

**Rockville Pike Update**

Cynthia Kebba of the Planning Department briefed the Commission on the current plans for Rockville Pike and the public comment process the City intends to follow. She described key recommendations made by a consultant, including having 3 through lanes of traffic and 2 lanes of local traffic (including buses and bicycles). Redevelopment will be brought out to the sidewalks and parking will be structural (garages). Streets and neighborhoods currently cut off from Pike access will be reconnected. Ms. Kebba also handed out some of the outreach materials City staff has prepared. The Planning Commission is discussing the recommendations on February 9. A public hearing is scheduled for March 9. Adoption is anticipated in early 2012. This issue was referred to the Sustainable Design and Energy Committee. Commissioners should send their comments to Davidson-McCord.

**Interview of a Commissioner Candidate**

Commissioners interviewed John Becker, including a question and answer session.

**Green Building Tax Credits**

John Britton discussed the proposed green building tax credit. He indicated that more work needs to be done to support the proposal. He challenged the Commission to identify the economic and environmental benefits of the proposal.

**White Tailed Deer Task Force Report**

The task force met on January 25. The group is preparing its final findings and recommendations together. Once the draft is complete, Ms. Davidson-McCord will forward to other Commissioners. A follow up public comment process is planned. Next Task Force meeting is scheduled for March 23.

**Environmental Literacy Proposal**

The Commission submitted comments to the Maryland Department of Education on the State's proposal to allow existing science curricula to substitute for otherwise applicable environmental education graduation requirement. A public meeting on the matter is scheduled for February 22.

**Science Day and Hometown Holidays**

The City is not going to continue its green village during Hometown Holidays. However, the Commission is expected to have a booth and may arrange for some limited environmental programming. The Outreach Committee will begin planning the Commission's booth at its next meeting

**Committee Reports**

*All Committees should come to the March meeting with several proposed goals and objectives to achieve during calendar year 2011.*

**Watershed Protection**

- Steve Cardon has decided to step down as chair. Effective immediately, Julie Palakovich-Carr is the Committee Chair.
- The Committee recently completed a survey circulated by the Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin (ICPRB) re watershed involvement, activities and assistance needs.
- The spring Earth Month activities were reviewed:
  - March 6 – Volunteer Stream Monitoring Training
  - March 23 – Residential Green Energy Purchasing Workshop (may be videotaped)
  - April 3 – Volunteer Stream Monitoring I
  - April 9 – Spring Stream Clean up
  - April 10 – Science Day/Invasive Species Pull
  - April 16 – Volunteer Stream Monitoring II
  - April 25 – Mayor and Council Environmental Excellence Awards
  - April 30 – Spring Fest at Croydon Creek Nature Center
  - June 4 – Backyard Habitats Tour
- Next Committee meeting is February 22.

**Commission Minutes**  
**February 8, 2011**  
**Page 3**

**Sustainable Development and Energy**

- The desirability of joining the US Green Power Community Challenge was discussed. Davidson-McCord and Goodman moved and seconded a motion to encourage the City to participate in the Program. Motion was adopted 6-0-0.
- The next meeting is scheduled for February 22, 2011.

**Outreach and Education**

- Kravitz moved and Goodman seconded authorization to spend up to \$500 on two large tablecloths displaying the City's sustainability logo to be used at future outreach event booths. The Commission approved the motion 6-0-0.

*All Committees should come to the March meeting with several proposed goals and objectives to achieve during calendar year 2011.*

**Executive Session**

The Commissioners determined to forward John Becker's name to the Mayor to fill the current vacancy on the Commission.

**Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 10:20 pm by unanimous acclamation.

**Next Commission Meeting**

The next Commission meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, March 8, 2011 at 7:30 pm** at **Rockville's City Hall, 111 Maryland Avenue, Rockville, Maryland, 20850**

**Follow Up/Action Items:**

None